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## NOTES FROM MUSHROOM LITERATURE. V.

W. A. Kellerman.

ANOTHER FLY AGARIC.—Under this title D. R. Sumstine gives in the Journal of Mycology for November, 1905, the following note:

*Amanita muscaria* is called the fly agaric because infusions of it are poisonous to flies. It has now, however, a keen rival for this reputation in another species of the same genus. Last summer while drying specimens of *Amanita olitaria* Bull, a number of flies were attracted to them. After the flies had remained on the plants for a short time they fell over apparently dead. This continued until thirty-nine fly mycophagists had become the victims of some narcotic contained in the mushrooms. The box with flies and plants was then set aside for future study. After two hours the box was again examined, but the flies which once were dead were now alive and had departed with no more serious results possibly than a severe headache from their mycological "booze."

Several experiments were made with other specimens of the same species and the same results were obtained. It seems that this plant has some property that acts as an intoxicant or soporific to flies. It is reported by some writers as edible and by others as poisonous.

SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT THE MORELLE.—The following was published in the Journal of Mycology, November, 1905, by W. C. Sturgis, under the title *Remarkable Occurrence of Morchella Esculenta (L.) Pers.*: During a recent hunting trip in southwestern British Columbia the writer came across this fungus growing in such abundance and in a location and at a season of the year so unusual that the circumstances seem worth recording. Usually one expects to find *Morchella* in the Spring growing on the borders of meadows or other grassy places. In the present instance the plants were found in September on a steep mountain side which had, within a little over a year, been subjected to a destructive forest fire.

On September 11th the writer was skirting the precipitous side of a mountain at an altitude of about 7,000 feet, and while passing through what had been a fairly good growth of aspens and small spruces, a few fine specimens of *Morchella* were noticed. Further search revealed the presence of these plants literally in hundreds. A fire had passed across the mountain in June, 1904, leaving only skeletons of the trees standing and charring the ground to such a depth that no trace of green vegetation had since appeared. Yet under these unfavorable circumstances and at a season when snow had already fallen not far from the locality, a bushel of *Morchellas* might have been gathered within a radius of one hundred yards. The specimens were exceptionally fine, in some cases attaining a height of seven inches and a circumference around the pileus of ten inches. In such specimens the pileus usually showed a great variety of form, from conical and flattened to nearly spherical. In other cases the pileus more nearly resembled that of *M. conica* Pers. The base of the stipe was in all cases much swollen and consisted of a mass of mycelium and soil cemented into a sclerotoid mass. Specimens were secured from which the identity of the fungus was later determined.

The interesting question arises whether, on the western slopes of the Rocky mountains, *Morchella* usually occurs in the autumn rather than in the spring, as elsewhere, and also how the presence of the particular specimens is to be accounted for. It is hardly possible that the spores could have been carried to the locality in sufficient quantity to have produced in one season so large a growth of plants, and it is almost equally inconceivable that a subterranean mycelium could have resisted a degree of heat sufficient to destroy permanently all surface vegetation and leave the ground a desolate waste of charred clay.

POLYPORUS OBTUSUS.—We have learned to expect a goodly number of mycological articles in each new Annual Report of the Missouri Botanical

Garden. One such in the 16th report (1905) deals with one of the shelf-fungi, or Polypores, namely *Polyporus obtusus*, author Perley Spaulding. This species seems to occur only in North America and is confined to a few of the oaks, the "black oak family" exclusively, gaining entrance to the living plants through wounds. The disease so caused Mr. Spaulding found in central Missouri and northern Arkansas, on *Quercus marilandica* (Black Jack) and *Quercus velutina* (Black Oak). However, the Polypore is a saprophyte—"There is not the slightest hint of its occurring as a wound parasite. It not only grows on the trees but it sooner or later causes the death of the affected trees. The rot extends up and down in the heart wood until the tree is so weakened that it breaks over or dies outright. From what could be gathered by observations it seemed that the fungus works remarkably fast in causing the death of the attacked trees." Three full-page half tones admirably illustrate the species in question.

**MARASMIUS DELECTANS.**—Prof. Morgan has recently described this elegant new species, the same being illustrated by Fig. 200 in the BULLETIN. His description of the plant is as follows: **MARASMIUS DELECTANS MORGAN SP. NOV.**—Pileus subcoriaceous, convex then expanded and depressed glabrous, rugulose, white changing in drying to pale and alutaceous. Stipe long, slender, tapering slightly upward, glabrous, brown and shining, white at the apex, arising from an abundant white-floccose mycelium. Lamellae moderately broad, unequal, rather distant, trabeculate between, white emarginate adnexed; spores lance-oblong, hyaline,  $7-9 \times 4$  mic.

Growing on old leaves in deciduous woods. Pileus 1-2 cm. in diameter, the stipe 3-5 cm. long and 1.0-1.5 mm. thick.

THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM THE LAST NUMBER OF THE JOURNAL OF MYCOLOGY:

**A NEW SPECIES OF GALERA: CHARLES H. PECK.**—A species of this genus apparently undescribed has been brought to my notice recently of which the following account may be given:

**GALERA KELLERMANI PECK sp. nov.**—Pileus very thin, subovate or subconic, soon becoming plane or nearly so; striatulate nearly to the center when moist, more or less wavy and persistently striate on the margin when dry, minutely granulose or mealy when young, unpolished when mature, often with a few scattered floccose squamules when young, and sometimes with a few slight fragments of a veil adhering to the margin which appears as if finely notched by the projecting ends of the gills, watery brown when moist grayish brown when dry, a little darker in the center, taste slight, odor faint, like that of decaying wood; lamellae thin, close, adnate, a delicate cinnamon, brown becoming darker with age; stem slender, equal or slightly tapering upward, finely striate, minutely scurfy or mealy at least when young, hollow, white; spores brownish ferruginous with a faint pinkish tint in mass, elliptic,  $8-12 \times 6-7 \mu$ .

Pileus 2-3 cm. broad; stem 2.5-4 cm. long, 1-2 mm. thick. Gregarious or subcespitose. Ground in a greenhouse, Columbus, Ohio, August, 1906. Number 4494. Dr. W. A. Kellerman.

The distinguishing characters of this species are its broadly expanded or plane grayish brown pileus with its minutely granulose or mealy surface, its persistently striate margin and its very narrow gills becoming brownish with age. The indication of a veil is also unusual.

The species is respectfully dedicated to its discoverer who has kindly sent copious notes, specimens, spore-prints and photograph from which the description has been prepared.

**EXPLANATION OF PLATE 89.**—*Galera kellermani* Peck. A half tone illustration of several plants. A very young specimen shows the minutely granulose or mealy character of the cap. Fully grown plants are shown and in one case the fragments of a veil are distinctly seen attached to the margin.

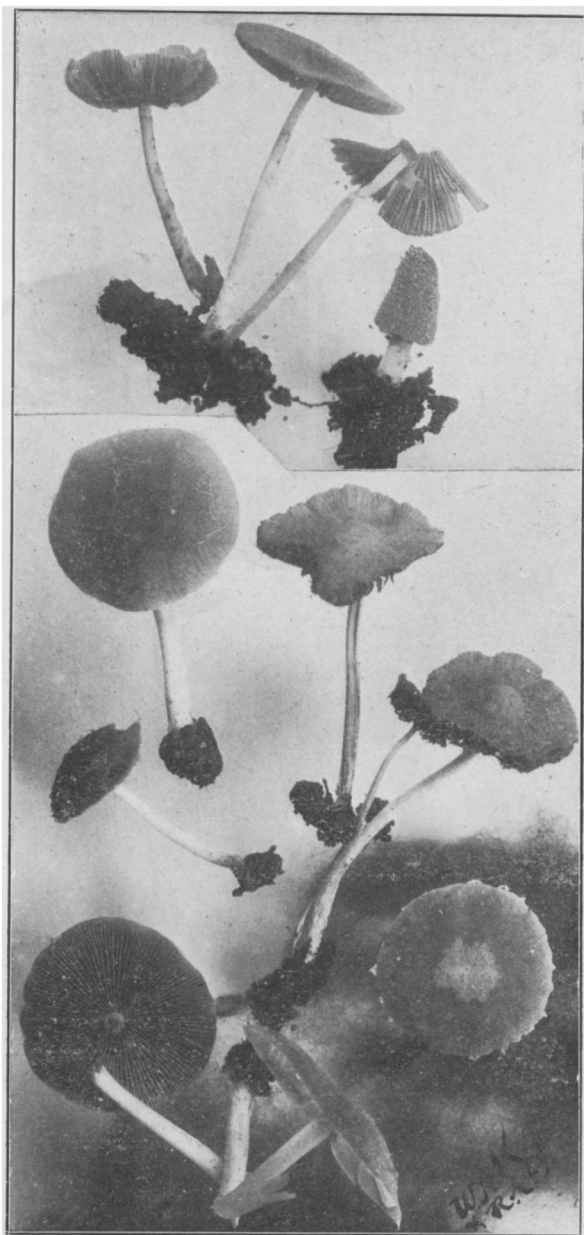


Fig. 215. GA-LE'-RA KEL-LER-MAN'-I. See text on opposite page.

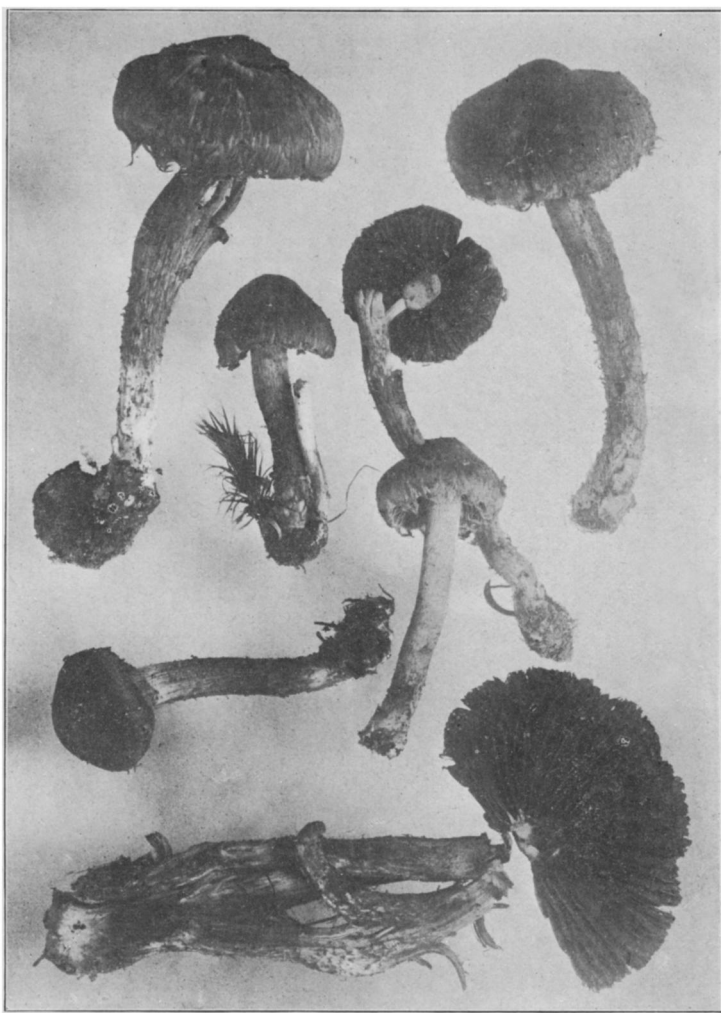


Fig. 216. I-NOC'-Y-BE SUB-O-CHRA'-CE-A. BURT'-I-I. A small but conspicuous Mushroom sent to us by Supt. Hard, of Chillicothe, Ohio. Neither Atkinson nor McIlvaine describe any of our species, the latter remarking that "none reported as edible or poisonous; those I have tasted are not pleasant." The genus *Inocybe* is well described by Atkinson. It consists of ochre-colored species of various character, the gills being adnate, sinuate, rarely decurrent, and in one species free. It is placed next to the genus *Hebeloma*.